

Folkways, Mores, and Taboos

Norms are rules and expectations by which a society guides the behavior of others. They are standards of action or what members of a group are expected to do.

Sanctions are the ways in which society enforces its norms, formally or informally.

Positive Sanction: a smile, an "A" on a test, public recognition.

Negative Sanction: yelling, odd looks, fine, jail time.

Norms can be divided into folkways, mores, and taboos.

Folkways

- *routine ways of doing things
- *vary highly from one situation to another
- *violation elicit mild social reaction
- *often are preferences rather than demands

Mores (Mo-ray)

- *have greater moral significance
- *identified with group welfare and survival
- *are demands rather than preferences
- *violation tends to elicit harsher sanctions

Taboos

- *Often associated with **religious** beliefs
- *are considered **mor ally repulsive**
- *violation tends to elicit social banishment in addition to harsh punishment

Indicate whether the following examples are breaking or keeping a **folkway(f)**, a **more(m)**, or a **taboo(t)**:

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ smoking in the bathroom | _____ do not yell fire in a public place |
| _____ marrying a sibling (brother/sister) | _____ killing another person |
| _____ people should not tell lies | _____ eating chocolate covered ants |
| _____ use a hall pass when leaving class | _____ wearing too much make up |
| _____ bringing a gun to school | _____ obey traffic signals |
| _____ women wear a shirt in public | _____ child abuse |
| _____ send thank you cards | _____ human sacrifices |
| _____ practicing cannibalism | _____ rise for the National Anthem |
| _____ making racist comments | _____ serial killing |
| _____ respect your elders | _____ use proper table manners |

2. List a folkway that used to be a more:

List a more that used to be folkway: